

Applicants : Ryan D. Tasma, David H. Cotter and Ronald C. Ehlert
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Remarks:

The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 25, 2007. Claims 2-12, 17, 18, 33 and 57-63 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13-16, 19-32 and 34-56 are canceled without prejudice.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Claims 2-12, 17, 18, 33 and 57-63 are allowed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 19, 21-25, 28 and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fultz et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,005,693, in view of Ito, Japanese publication JP2002326711, while claims 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fultz et al., in view of Ito, and further in view of Pelka, U.S. Patent Publication No. U.S. 2002/0134647, and claims 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fultz et al., in view of Ito, and further in view of Kloosterhouse, U.S. Patent No. 4,962,841, and claims 29 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fultz et al., in view of Ito, and further in view of Itoh, US Patent Publication No. US2002/0134646.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections under §103(a). However, in order to expedite prosecution and allowance of the claims, and without acquiescing in the rejection in any way, Applicants have herein canceled claims 19, 21-32, 34 and 64 without prejudice, such that the subject matter of these claims can be pursued in a continuation application in the future.

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Claims 2-12, 17, 18, 33 and 57-63 are pending in the application and are allowed. A notice of allowance is earnestly and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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